

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Cal Carsten, please.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise neither in support of the motion nor in opposition this morning, only to bring another thought to this body that has not been mentioned and I speak from membership on the Appropriations Committee this year. Our philosophy has been clear from the very beginning that the people of the State of Nebraska were not ready to accept nor capable of accepting any increase in the tax rates. From that philosophy, we have worked through our budgetary process with extreme diligence, with some wounds, I am, frankly, to admit to you, but have tried desperately to send to this body a recommendation that will stay within those perimeters, leaving a very minimal amount for use on the floor in A bills. Now these bills that we are talking about, including 38, as worthy of consideration as they may be, you should keep in mind that it will change the rate structure if they are adopted and that is perhaps only a shift as opposed to an addition, but any time that you shift it is interpreted as being an increase. And I think that this body should bear in mind that any substantial amount of increases or changes is going to trigger that change in the rates which we, ourselves, will then have to adjust to. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Howard Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: I would just call the question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote. We are voting to cease debate. I need a little help here if you will help me. Thank you. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Rod Johnson, would you like to close on your motion, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I will simply reiterate what I said before, that is I think this...it was a serious mistake in the beginning that this Legislature chose to cut off one of the avenues that it may have wanted to follow